

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00499 01 OF 02 031323Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SS-20 PM-07 INR-10

INRE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SAM-01 L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 SP-03

/077 W

----- 065181

O 031205Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4448

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0499

FOR EUR/NE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ZUMWALT, ELMO R., JR.)

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S VISIT TO ICELAND

FOL MSG FROM ADMIN COMICEDEFOR KEF (DTG P 021911Z APR 74)
SENT ACTION CINCLANT AND INFO REYKJAVIK APR 2 RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE:

N05050// SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS

REPORT OF VISIT BY CNO (U)

1. (U) CNO PARTY ARRIVED KEFLAVIK 290915Z MAR 74 AND PROCEEDED TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IN COMPANY WITH AMB IRVING. PARTY CONSISTED OF CNO; MRS. ZUMWALT; CAPT J. H. LYTLER, USN, DIRECTOR NORTHERN EUROPEAN AND NATO BRANCH, OPNAV; MR. GLEN R. CELLA, POLAD TO CNO; CAPT J.R. DAVEY, USN, PAO TO CNO; CAPT WM. R. NARVA, MC, USN, PERSONAL PHYSICIAN TO CNO; CDR D.E. WOODBURY, USN, PERSONAL AIDE TO CNO; MCPON J. D. WHITTET, USN, MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY; MRS. WHITTET AND CNO'S WRITERS AND STEWARD.

2. (U) PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CNO'S VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS WITH VARIOUS
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00499 01 OF 02 031323Z

OFFICIALS

OF GOI THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RETAINING THE IDF. THE VISIT WAS
ORIGINALLY ARRANGED BY AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK AND CNO WAS BILLETED AT
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR ENTIRE DURATION OF VISIT.

3. (C) SCHEDULE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR VISIT FOLLOWS ALONG WITH

PAGE TWO RUDISAA1205 C O N F I D E N T I A L
LISTING OF GOI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET:
FRIDAY 29 MAR 74

0900 ARRIVED KEFLAVIK

1430 CALLED ON

FONMIN AGUSTSSON IN COMPANY WITH AMB IRVING
AND RADM COOLEY

1500 MET WITH FONMIN AND ALTHING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND
MEMBERS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). OTHERS IN
ATTENDANCE INCLUDED: AMB IRVING, RADM COOLEY, CAPT LYTLE,
POLAD CELLA. MEMBERS OF MFA AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.
PRESENT WITH PARTY AFFILIATION IN (PAREN) CONSISTED OF:

EYSTEINN JONSSON (PP)

THORARINN THORARINSSON (PP)

MATTHIAS MATHIESEN (IP)

GILS GUDMUNDSSON (PA)

GYLFI TH. GISLASON (SDP)

GEIR HALLGRIMSSON (IP)

AMB PETUR THORSTEINSSON, SEC GEN, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIR

S

(MFA)

HORDUR HELGASON, DEP SEC GEN, MFA

AMB HANS G. ANDERSEN, LEGAL ADVISOR, MFA

PAGE THREE RUDISAA1205 C O N F I D E N T I A L

1715 BACKGROUND BRIEFING IN AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE BY THREE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS EDITORS REPRESENTING THREE NEWSPAPERS:

STYRMIR GUNNARSSON, MORGUNBLADID (IP)

TOMAS KARLSSON, TIMINN (PP)

BJORN BJARNASON, VISIR (IP)

ALSO PRESENT WERE AMB IRVING; ROBERT DICKERMAN, REYKJAVIK

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00499 01 OF 02 031323Z

DIRECTOR (USIS); AND CAPT J.R. DAVEY, PAO TO CNO.

1930 BLACK TIE DINNER HOSTED BY AMB AND MRS. IRVING. ICELANDERS
INVITED AND WHO ATTENDED WERE:

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EINAR AGUSTSSON

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON

AMB PETUR THORSTEINSSON, SEC GEN, MFA

HORDUR HELGASON, DEP SEC GEN, MFA

AMB HANS G. ANDERSEN, LEGAL ADVISOR, MFA

SIGURDUR GIZURARSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FONMIN ON DEFENSE
AFFAIRS

MEMBERS OF ALTHING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LISTED ABOVE

SAT 30 MAR 74

0800 DEP REYKJAVIK IN COMPANY WITH ORIGINATOR FOR KEFLAVIK

0900 RAP SESSION AT BASE GYMNASIUM FOR NAVY E-6'S AND BELOW

PAGE FOUR RUDISAA1205 C O N F I D E N T I A L

1000 RAP SESSION AT CPO CLUB FOR NAVY E-7'S, E-8'S AND E-9'S

1115 MET WITH NAVY DEFENSE FORCE UNIT COMMANDERS AND EXECUTIVE
OFFICERS AT OFFICERS CLUB

1200 AWARDS AND REENLISTMENT CEREMONY. THREE AWARDS PRESENTED BY
CNO. SIX NAVY MEN REENLISTED BY CNO.

1215 LUNCHEON AND RAP SESSION AT OFFICERS CLUB FOR NAVY DEFENSE
FORCE OFFICERS

1315 DEP KEFLAVIK FOR REYKJAVIK

1500 INFORMAL MTG AT RESIDENCE OF DCM MARTIN FOR KEY MEMBERS OF
ALTHING AND ICELANDERS WHO ARE INFLUENTIAL IN THE DEFENSE
ISSUE. ICELANDERS PRESENT:

NAME	PARTY AFFILIATION
JON SKAFTASON (MP)	PP
GUNNAR THORODDSEN (MP)	PP
BENEDIKT GRONDAL (MP)	SDP
ELLERT B. SCHRAM (MP)	IP
EGGERT THORSTEINSSON	SDP
HEIMER HANNESSON	PP
GUDMUNDER GARDARSSON	IP
VILHAMER JONSSON	PP

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PAGE 04 REYKJA 00499 01 OF 02 031323Z

PAGE FIVE RUDISAA1205 C O N F I D E N T I A L

JON KJARTANSSON	PP
OLAFUR HANNIBALSSON	OLL

1715 PRESS BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS OF ICELANDIC MEDIA

1745 TEN MINUTE TAPED INTERVIEW FOR ICELANDIC STATE TV

1930 BUFFET SUPPER AT ORIGINATOR'S QTRS. ICELANDERS PRESENT:

PETUR SIGURDSSON, DIR, ICELANDIC COAST GUARD, MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT

HANNIBAL VALDIMARSSON, CHAIRMAN OLL

VILHJALMUR ARNASON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, ICELAND PRIME
CONTRACTORS

PALL ASG. TRYGGVASON, MINISTER COUNSELLOR, DEFENSE DIVISION
OF THE MFA AND CHAIRMAN, ICELANDIC
SIDE OF DEFENSE COUNCIL

HALLGRIMUR DALBERG, SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
AFFAIRS AND MEMBER, ICELANDIC SIDE OF
DEFENSE COUNCIL

SUN 31 MAR 74

0900 BREAKFAST, AMB IRVING'S RESIDENCE WITH OLL MINISTER,
BJORN JONSSON, MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS
1015 DEP REYKJAVIK FOR KEFLAVIK

PAGE SIX RUDISAA1205 C O N F I D E N T I A L

1115 DEP KEFLAVIK FOR WASH DC

4. (C) THE CNO'S COMMENTS TO THE ICELANDERS CONTAINED LITTLE THAT WAS
NEW. HOWEVER, THE SINCERITY OF THE PRESENTATIONS AND THE CREDIBILITY
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FACT THAT THE INFORMATION WAS COMING FROM THE MAN
AT THE TOP HAD A SIGNIFICANT AND FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE ICELANDERS
PRESENT. HE TALKED ABOUT THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR COLLECTIVE
DEFENSE IN THE ATLANTIC AND HOW NATO VIEWS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS
COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. HE THEN DISCUSSED EAST-WEST DETENTE, EMPHASIZING
THAT THOSE ASPECTS OF REAL DETENTE THAT ARE TAKING SHAPE HAVE BEEN
MADE POSSIBLE BY COLLECTIVE MILITARY STRENGTH. WITH THIS BACKGROUND,
IT IS THEN NEEDED TO ASK OURSELVES WHETHER THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR RE-
DUCTION IN THAT COLLECTIVE MILITARY STRENGTH. HE WENT ON TO POINT
OUT THAT THE WEST HAS BEEN THE FIRST TO TAKE UNILATERAL STEP-BY-
STEP REDUCTIONS IN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE
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PAGE 05 REYKJA 00499 01 OF 02 031323Z

ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE. WE FAIL TO SEE SIMILAR REDUCTION ON THE PART
OF THE SOVIETS AND, IN FACT, ON THE NORTHERN FLANK OF NATO WE SEE
MAJOR INCREASES IN WEAPONS CAPABILITIES ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS.
AS SPECIFICS IN THIS REGARD, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. DEFENSE
BUDGET CONTINUES TO REPRESENT A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF THE NATIONAL
BUDGET, AND THAT THE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
IRVING

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00499 02 OF 02 031322Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SS-20 PM-07 INR-10

INRE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SAM-01 L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 SP-03

/077 W

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O 031205Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4449

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0499

FOR EUR/NE

N05050// FINAL SECTION OF TWO

CONTINUE TO DECLINE. WHILE THIS HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE, THE USSR HAS STEADILY INCREASED ITS EXPENDITURES FOR DEFENSE AND THE MEN IN UNIFORM HAVE RISEN FROM SLIGHTLY OVER 2,000,000 TO OVER 4,000,000. SPECIFICALLY, THE REDUCTION IN THE U.S. NAVY IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FACT

THAT THE U.S. NAVY HAS THE SMALLEST NUMBER OF SHIPS THAT IT HAS HAD SINCE 1939. DURING SEVERAL OF THE MEETINGS THE CNO ELABORATED ON THE EVENTS (KOREA, SSBN DEVELOPMENT, AND VIET NAM) WHICH RESULTED IN AN INABILITY TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE U.S. NAVY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE REDUCTIONS ARE SOON TO BE REVERSED, BUT DURING THIS PERIOD OF REDUCED NAVY STRENGTH, IT IS MORE VITAL THAN EVER FOR STRONG COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. HE THEN POINTED OUT THAT THE RISE OF USSR NAVAL POWER HAS PROVIDED THEM THE CAPABILITY TO POSSIBLY CUT THE SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE. ON TWO OCCASIONS IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, THE USSR HAS SEEN FIT

PAGE TWO RUDISAA1228 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TO BACK AN EXPLOITATION OF WEAKNESSES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT ON EACH OCCASION IT WAS ONLY A POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES THAT PEACE WAS RE-
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00499 02 OF 02 031322Z

ESTABLISHED. A VERY STRONG CASE

WAS MADE FOR THE ARGUMENT THAT USSR POLICY CONTINUES TO PROBE FOR SIGNS OF WEAKNESS WITH ADVENTURESOME EXPLOITATION OF WEAKNESS WHENEVER THE PROBE REVEALS A SOFT SPOT. QUESTIONS GENERALLY FOCUSED ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS:

A. WHY SHOULDN'T ICELAND BE DRAWING IN ON DEFENSE MEASURES THE SAME AS OTHER NATO COUNTRIES?

B. WHY CAN'T THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEFENSE FORCE BE CONDUCTED FROM

SOMEWHERE ELSE?

C. WHY ISN'T THE PROVISION OF THE NATO TREATY THAT AN ATTACK ON ONE IS AN ATTACK ON ALL" SUFFICIENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF ICELAND?

D. ARE OUR COMMUNITY INTERESTS REALLY IN DANGER?

E. WOULD NOT AN ATTACK ON ICELAND SIMPLY BE PART OF THE START OF A GLOBAL WAR? CNO'S RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE AND THAT WITHOUT A DEFENSE FORCE IN PLACE, SOVIET EXERCISES IN THE VICINITY OF ICELAND WOULD PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR A SHORT-NOTICE EXPLOITATION OF WEAKNESS AND COULD BE

PAGE THREE RUDISAA1228 C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONSIDERED TO PROVIDE THE CAPABILITY FOR A TAKEOVER SIMILAR TO THAT IMPOSED ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DIRECT ATTACK WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE NECESSARY AS THE FEELING OF BEING SURROUNDED BY A LARGE SOVIET FORCE COULD RESULT IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH COULD RESULT IN ACCOMMODATION OF SOVIET DEMANDS.

5. (U) RAP SESSIONS WERE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT FOR THE CNO AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE FORCE. WORTHY OF NOTE IS THAT ALMOST ALL QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO CNO PERTAINED TO GENERAL INTEREST NAVYWIDE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND PROBLEMS. AFTER RAP SESSIONS CNO STATED THAT QUESTIONS REFLECTED HIGH STATE OF MORALE AND THAT DEFENSE FORCE MEMBERS WERE NOT BASICALLY DISSATISFIED WITH DUTY IN ICELAND.

6. (U) CNO LEFT A DISTINCTLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION UPON ICELANDERS WITH WHOM HE MET. HIS FORTHRIGHT DISCUSSIONS WERE A PLUS FOR OUR SIDE DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR IDF TENURE. EQUALLY IMPORTANT WERE HIS WORDS OF PRAISE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DEFENSE FORCE MEMBERS.

7. (U) THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK.
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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00499 02 OF 02 031322Z

GDS-80.
UNQUOTE. IRVING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0570
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740470/aaaacmqj.tel
Line Count: 317
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S VISIT TO ICELAND FOL MSG FROM ADMIN COMICEDEFOR KEF (DTG P 021911Z APR 74)
TAGS: OVIP, (ZUMWALT, ELMO R JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005